

THE JOHANNESBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the meeting of July 19th there was an interesting exhibition of the stamps of British India and the Native States. Mr. A. J. Cohen showed a fine general collection of these stamps.

THE COLLECTORS' CLUB, NEW YORK.

The 109th meeting of the Board of Governors was held on August 8th. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Secretary read a letter from "The British Numismatic Society," acknowledging with thanks the receipt of the silver medals donated by the Club to that society.

The treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of \$98.10, was approved as read. The report of the House Committee was read and received. Albert Perrin, Secretary, 166, East 23rd Street, New York.

BRITISH EMPIRE STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.

The June packets have returned. Results satisfactory. Sheets and accounts are now being dealt with. Members are requested to remember that the Colonial and General packets will be separated again in September, and be sent off punctually.

Rules from H. Bean, 161, Loughborough Park, S.W.

"UNUSED" STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.

After all there were so few sheets for the August packet that none was sent out. Next packet will start September 15th. There are still a few vacancies. Rules from H. Bean, Secretary, 164, Loughborough Park, S.W.

Overprinted British Stamps.

A REPLY TO MR. C. F. DENDY MARSHALL, B.A.

To the Editor of *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*.

Sir,—I have read with much interest your notice of Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall's article in the "London Philatelist."

It is because I think he is wrong in the principle he lays down for collectors that I venture to address you. He says "if the boundary (i.e. between the general issues and those limited to a particular use by overprint or otherwise) is once overstepped it is very difficult to draw the line and at the same time preserve a reputation of consistency."

But who wishes to draw the line short of completeness? Hence the interest in specialism. To complete a general collection is practically hopeless, but the specialist may have hope. Undoubtedly a specialist in one country will begin with the general issues of that country. Say he takes Great Britain, he will complete the general issues as far as possible, putting into his album as you wisely suggest, even damaged stamps (and, may I add, torn specimens in preference to mere postmark blotches which disfigure any decent looking page in the album) when the perfect specimen is quite out of reach. There he may stop; his collection is complete—so far, but he may also go on to collect the stamps of limited use, Officials (either overprinted or perforated, if authorised), stamps used in the Levant. English stamps used in Foreign post offices, College stamps, etc.

Will Mr. Dendy Marshall explain wherein lies the difference between the special design used for the Departments of the United States, and the special design (an overprint) used for the Departments of Great Britain?

As to stamps perforated by firms, no serious collector will collect these, since the stamps are not thereby restricted to a particular use—not even to that of the firm who have them perforated. The object is quite different, i.e., to prevent their being stolen, which, I take it, gives them no special philatelic value.

Mr. Marshall says "The overprint merely denotes that the stamp is for a particular use: in fact it is a kind of post-mark." Is it? Does a post-mark denote anything of the kind? Not at all: it denotes that the stamp has fulfilled the purpose for which it is intended. The exact opposite in my humble opinion. And philatelists are right not to collect post marks. A collector of post-marks is an animal of quite another species—not homo philatelicus, but homoculus. What is the latin for post-mark? Will some kind and learned reader please supply it? In fact, he is quite another case. Collectors, I say, are quite right not to collect post marks, since the accident of a stamp being posted in one town or another in the country of origin can give it no additional philatelic interest. Such at least is the opinion, with submission to his elders and betters in philately, of yours obediently,

NEOPHYTE.

On Postal Cards and Covers.

By A SPECIALIST.

With respect to the proposed introduction of illustrated postcards by and for the use of several of our Colonies, a further step was made by the P.M.G. of the Australian Commonwealth in June last, (a brief reference to which was made in this column on page 67).

I have now before me a cutting from an Australian journal which gives the full text, and as it is an interesting paragraph, its insertion here will not be out of place—

Melbourne, June 12th.

"The Postal Department has decided to call for new designs for pictorial postcards, and skilled artists resident in any of the States of the Commonwealth are invited to submit designs in colours, suitable for reproduction on postcards, of the regulation size, namely, 5½ in. by 3½ in. The designs when reproduced, should not cover the whole of the card, as space is needed on the same side to enable the sender to write a brief communication.

In order to secure an effective production, the designs submitted should be three or four times the size of the picture required.

The subjects must be Australian, representing striking and readily-identifiable places and objects.

Premiums of £5 are offered for each of the best designs (not exceeding four) for each State.

Those designs for which premiums may be awarded shall become the property of the Postmaster-General, and they must not be reproduced or copied by the designer or by anyone else with his consent. The cost of returning the designs not accepted by the P.M.G. must be borne by the competitors. No crude, inartistic, or obviously unsuitable design need be submitted. Designs addressed to the Secretary, Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne, and endorsed "Designs for Pictorial Postcards" will be received up to noon on September 1st, 1904.

The most striking points about the above paragraph are:—(1) The apparent great anxiety of the Postmaster-General to have only local talent compete, which seems a somewhat narrow view to take, for surely a larger and more varied style of designs would be received were the competition an open one. (2) The information contained in the latter clause that no "obviously unsuitable design need be submitted," seems also out of place and unnecessary, I venture to assert that no true artist would waste either his time or talent in tendering designs for postcards which, to say the least, would only be suitable for a chocolate or starch box top.

NOTES AND NOVELTIES.

Great Britain.—"E.W.S.N." chronicles another new envelope die-number, the list, therefore, of die-numbers known stands as follows:—

ENVELOPES—King's Head embossed stamps:—

1d., dies 7 to 30; 43 to 53.

1d., dies 7 to 30; 43 to 61.

1d., 4d., 10d., 1/6, dies 1.

2d., dies 1, 2.

2d., die 3.

3d., dies 1, 2.

6d., dies 1 to 6.

3d., Registration, dies 1 to 11.

British South Africa Company.—The "I.B.J." announces two new wrappers:—Stamps "Arms" on dark background. The set of stationery now consists of:—

ENVELOPES—1d. green on white.

1d. carmine ..

2d. blue ..

LETTER CARD—1d. carmine on pale blue card.

WRAPPERS—1d. green on buff.

1d. carmine ..

Holland.—A provisional letter card has been issued.—Stamp head of Queen to right.

LETTER CARD—"3 CENT" in black, over six thin bars, on 5c. blue.

Zanzibar.—"Die Post" chronicles new issues as below:—

ENVELOPES—140 x 79 mm.:—

1 anna carmine on white.

2 " blue ..

REGN. ENVELOPE—134 x 84 mm.:—

2 anna brown, De-la-Rue print.

The stamp of the latter is slightly different to the others, the upper and lower portions of the frame bear the words "Registration" and "Fee" respectively.

POSTCARDS—1a. green } Inscription in 3 lines.

1 + 1a. } Chamois card, 121 x 73 mm.

2a. carmine } Inscription in 4 lines.

1 + 1a. } Chamois card, 140 x 89 mm.

WRAPPERS—1a. green on buff.

1a. carmine ..